

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 037563

FOL TEL SENT ACTION LUXEMBOURG BONN PARIS ROME THE HAGUE BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN DUBLIN NATO LONDON LUSAKA KINSHASA ADDIS ABABA LISBON
FROM SECSTATE DTD 14 FEB 1976 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 037563

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, EEC, AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: EC RECOGNITION OF MPLA

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES MADE HERE BY HMG AND FRG WE
ARE INFORMING THEIR EMBASSIES TODAY OF THE US POSITION
ON EARLY RECOGNITION BY MEMBERS OF EC-9 OF THE MPLA
REGIME AS THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA. WE HAVE USED THE
FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS:

2.--THE SOVIET AND CUBAN-BACKED MPLA IS JUST NOW GAIN-
ING CONTROL OF THE MAJORITY OF ANGOLAN TERRITORY AND THE
FIGHTING IS NOT OVER. IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE SO RAPIDLY
TO REWARD THE MPLA WITH RECOGNITION. THE OUTCOME IN
ANGOLA CONTINUES TO POSE A MAJOR THREAT TO WESTERN
INTERESTS.

3.WE WOULD PREFER THAT THE EUROPEANS DELAY RECOGNITION
UNTIL EARLY MARCH IN ORDER TO AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF
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HASTILY REWARDING THE SOVIET UNION'S SUCCESSFUL POWER

PLAY IN ANGOLA. WE WOULD HOPE, IN ADDITION, THAT THE OFFER OF RECOGNITION BE LINKED WITH STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT TO DR. NETO'S GOVERNMENT TO BRING ABOUT SOVIET AND CUBAN DISENGAGEMENT AND A MOVE TOWARDS ANGOLAN NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

4.--THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL WISH IN THE COMING WEEKS TO CONSULT WITH MEMBERS OF THE EC-NINE ON THOSE STEPS WHICH CAN MOST EFFECTIVELY BE TAKEN TO PROTECT WESTERN INTERESTS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN AREA, PARTICULARLY IN NEIGHBORING ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA.

5. FOREGOING IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND FOR YOUR USE IF DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE ARISES IN NEXT FEW DAYS WHILE, AS DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS, EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS WILL BE CONSIDERING EXTENDING RECOGNITION.

6. FOR LUXEMBOURG:PLEASE INSURE GOL AWARE OF OUR POSITION PRIOR TO EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING MONDAY. INGERSOLL UNQTE INGERSOLL

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